

PROJECT SUMMARY

County: Shasta and Lassen

Applicant: Fall River Resource Conservation District

Project Title: Lower Beaver Creek Planning Project

PROJECT GOAL

The proposed project will deliver all steps necessary for completion of a project design that is ready for implementation, including environmental assessment, stakeholder coordination, design details, monitoring methods, CEQA compliance, and permitting.

PROJECT SCOPE

The Fall River Resource Conservation District (RCD) proposes a planning project to address restoration and enhancement needs along lower Beaver Creek, a seasonal degraded stream and riparian floodplain system that is one of two major tributaries to the Pit River in the Fall River Valley. The total project area is approximately 190 acres and consists roughly of 19,000 linear feet of stream. The exact area of disturbance for eventual project implementation will be identified after a design has been completed, but it is anticipated to be a much smaller area.

The Fall River RCD, in cooperation with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and private landowners, proposes a comprehensive stream/riparian/meadow restoration strategy for the project area. This project is consistent with the RCD's 5-year Strategic Plan. The landowners and NRCS are project supporters and will contribute in-kind services to the project.

The dominant feature of the project site is a seasonal stream and associated floodplain. Historically, this ecosystem featured saturated hydric meadow soils in the floodplain and a riparian corridor along the stream. Past management practices (i.e. improper bridge design, water diversion structures, vegetation removal, heavy livestock grazing) are the likely causes of channel incision and disconnection to the floodplain. These processes led to degradation of the associated meadows and riparian areas along Beaver Creek. Today, management practices that contributed to these conditions have been corrected, but recovery of the ecosystem cannot occur without active management and restoration techniques. As part of the project, a restoration/enhancement design will be developed, resource surveys will be conducted, and California Environmental Quality Act compliance and other permitting (e.g. 404 permitting, 401 compliance) will be completed. The project will be developed with landowner cooperation, public outreach, and eventually lead to project implementation.

The proposed project will directly address six SNC program goals: Increased opportunities for tourism and recreation, protection of living resources, preserving

working landscapes, reducing the risks of natural disasters, improving water quality, and assisting the regional economy.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Letters of support from private landowners and the NRCS are included with this proposal application (See Evaluation Criteria).

SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Administration	March 2009 – March 2011
Restoration Design and Report	May 2009 – July 2009
Resource Assessments, Permitting, and Reporting	May 2009 – December 2010
Reports and Outreach	March 2009 – March 2011

SNC PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Administrative Costs	\$ 3,600
Operating Expenses	\$ 6,700
Contract Services for Project Management, Design, CEQA, Permitting, Resource Assessments, Reporting, and Outreach	\$ 72,400